



DELAWARE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**Senator Charles D. Cook County Office Building
111 Main Street, Suite 1
Delhi, New York 13753**

Telephone: 607-832-5110

**Tina B. Molé, Chairman
Christa M. Schafer, Clerk**

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Delaware County, as part of the Southern Tier has made great strides in the fight against COVID-19. We have kept the number of active cases flat through the recent reopening. This has been in large part due to the efforts of all Delaware County residents to comply with the social distancing standards and wearing face coverings while in public.

As the Southern Tier has progressed through the phased reopening in the past five weeks we have continued to stress the importance of these efforts to social distance, wash hands and use face coverings. We are encouraging all Delaware County residents to get out and enjoy the community and support local businesses as they try to recover from their losses while also reconnecting with friends and family in small groups.

Governor Cuomo's most recent executive order authorizes gatherings of no more than 25 people. He has also authorized day camps to resume and is now allowing for graduation ceremonies and youth sports to resume in the coming weeks, with strict guidelines. We have worked hard to get to this point and want to ensure we do not slide backwards with a resurgence of the virus that would force the closing of businesses and community operations again.

For these reasons we are stressing the need to continue to wear face coverings and practice recommended social distancing guidelines. It is important to support our local businesses and community organizations by shopping and eating local. It is also important to comply with the signs on the doors that ask each of us to wear face coverings and keep distance between other patrons while in stores and restaurants. When a business owner puts these standards in place they are doing it as part of the guidance they must comply with to be open in New York State. If the residents of Delaware County ignore these standards we are putting each of these business owners in jeopardy of being shut down by New York State again.

Delaware County strongly advocates for and supports each individual's right and civil liberty to participate in organized protests, gatherings and community events. However, New York State has established guidelines for gathering in public that limits attendance and requires the use of personal protective measures such as face coverings and strict adherence to social distancing. Please understand these are not mandates from Delaware County and as a county government we are being asked to impose the standards passed down from New York State as part of Governor Cuomo's Executive Orders. As a result of these measures there may be local events or community celebrations that will be drastically changed or cancelled all together. If you are planning to participate in any events over the next few weeks, please be aware of any requirements that may be placed on attendees and be sure to adhere to the State's standards. We would also like to remind you if a local event or celebration is cancelled you can still support local organizations

through a monetary donation. Many local fire departments, VFW and Legions as well as fraternal organizations rely on summer events, festivals and celebrations to raise money for their groups. With several of these local events cancelled or altered many groups will struggle to provide the services that they traditionally provide in our communities, so any contribution will be welcome.

In closing please support local businesses, safely participate in local and community events and most importantly keep yourself and others safe by wearing face coverings and practice proper social distancing while in public.